



**MINUTES OF HAMPDEN COUNTY HEALTH COALITION
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020**

CALLED TO ORDER AT: 10:02 a.m.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 11:20 a.m.

ATTENDEES:

Kathleen Auer	Health Agent, Agawam Health Department
Soloe Dennis	Deputy Commissioner, Springfield Health & Human Services
Jeanne Galloway	Co-Chair; Health Director, West Springfield
Christopher Goshea	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner, PVPC
Thomas Hibert	Westfield & Montgomery
Beverly Hirschhorn	Director, Board of Health, Longmeadow
Angela Kramer	Public Health Nurse, Ludlow
Joshua Mathieu	Health Director, Palmer
Lorri McCool	Health Agent for Wilbraham, Monson & Hampden
Cheryl Messer	Director of Nurses, Ludlow Board of Health
Michael Nelson	Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, MDPH
Aimee Petrosky	Health Agent, East Longmeadow
Joe Rouse	Director of Public Health, Westfield; Health Agent, Russell
Deborah Schaier	Public Health Nurse, Holyoke
Tammy Spencer	Co-Chair; Health Director, Southwick

GUESTS:

Donna Bowman	MRC Coordinator, East Longmeadow
Charles Dunlap	Emergency Management Director, Southwick
Chrissy Florence	Health Inspector/Admin, Palmer
Steve Malochleb	Director, Greater Westfield & Western Hampden County MRC

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THIS MEETING:

- Agenda
- Minutes of February 6, 2020 Hampden County Health Coalition meeting

1. Meeting Called to Order

The May 7, 2020 conference call meeting of the Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Jeanne Galloway.

2. Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Galloway welcomed HCHC members and guests and she then took roll call. The following communities responded that they were in attendance: Agawam; East Longmeadow; Hampden; Holyoke; Longmeadow; Ludlow; Monson; Montgomery; Palmer; Russell; Southwick; Springfield; West Springfield; Westfield; Wilbraham.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Galloway called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the HCHC which was held on February 6, 2020.

LORRI MCCOOL MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 6, 2020 MINUTES; JOSHUA MATHIEU SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

4. Financial Report: April 2020

Chris Goshea provided a financial update on behalf of Erica Johnson who was unable to attend today's meeting, noting that as of today there is a balance of \$47,964.87. Mr. Goshea reported that Ms. Johnson anticipates an amendment to move funds into supplies and electronics. He stated that Ms. Johnson has already received some purchase requests and she has asked that HCHC members send her any other requests they may have. Mr. Goshea noted that Ms. Johnson will be preparing next year's budget in the coming weeks. He stated that we have an opportunity to extend this grant if HCHC doesn't have the deliverables completed. Mr. Nelson explained that when DPH management completes their guidance, he will share it with everyone. Ms. Galloway then called for a motion to approve the HCHC financial report for the month of April 2020.

BEVERLY HIRSCHHORN MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE HCHC FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020; KATHY AUER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

5. Business At Hand

a) Member Check-In

Ms. Galloway stated that the following questions from HCHC members are being presented for discussion.

- Planning - Will we be able to devote ourselves to our normal tasks or will a second surge prevent this.

Beverly Hirschhorn pointed out that some communities have already ordered flu vaccine but if we're in the middle of a second wave of COVID -19 that could be a problem. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Hirschhorn stated that she also wanted to know if there are deliverables that are still due. Mr. Goshea responded that HCHC is doing very well with the deliverables. He noted that copies of the EDS Plan technically need to be submitted by June 30th but we are waiting for state guidance regarding an extension.

- Too many duplicated emails being sent to us.

Ms. Messer commented that she has been inundated with many duplicate emails. Mr. Goshea explained that he uses the HCHC distribution list when sending out emails and he noted that there are some partners who don't receive all the information. He suggested looking at the subject line and deleting if it's a duplicate.

- Acquiring masks for volunteers.

Ms. Petrosky stated that efforts by East Longmeadow to obtain masks have been challenging. In addition, they cannot find the necessary materials for MRC volunteers to make masks. Donna Bowman, MRC Coordinator,

explained that she wanted to know if anyone had sources for sewing facilities that they could share. Mr. Nelson noted that if anyone needs emergent materials for their health department, they can send in a resource request and DPH can supplement based on what they have in stock. He noted that requests from Boards of Health need to go through the HMCC. Ms. Spencer asked if anyone had found a company that could provide PPE. Ms. Petrosky stated that East Longmeadow is using Mantis Graphics in Easthampton for surgical masks and cloth masks.

- Enforcement of Governor's orders is inconsistent across towns.

HCHC members talked about the fact that golf courses were being allowed to open today with certain guidelines and modifications. It was noted that if golf courses can open, people will ask why parks, basketball courts and summer camps could not open. Mr. Rouse commented that as of now, Massachusetts appears to be the only state with a ban on golf courses so keeping them closed may be a difficult justification to make. There was also a brief discussion about the issue of whether or not shooting ranges should be allowed to open.

- Locating PPE for us and for assisted living facilities.

Ms. Galloway stated that she was concerned that assisted living facilities were not receiving supplies because they were low on the list of priorities, however, that issue may have resolved itself.

- Information overload during a very busy time.

Kathy Auer agreed with Mr. Goshea's suggestion to delete duplicate emails by subject line. Mr. Goshea stated that if his email contains information that is a high priority he will try to highlight that in the message.

- Unknown challenges: activities needing safeguards in place (flu clinics) or activities that are a "no go".

Ms. Auer stated that it's impossible for the health departments to know the nuances of each industry and how they operate. She hoped that there will be clear guidance for elections, flu clinics, and any activities that are necessary.

- Dealing with elections.

HCHC members discussed how they plan to set up stations and booths so that they are social-distance friendly. They talked about providing masks and hand sanitizer, and cleaning the booths after each use.

Ms. Galloway noted that Ms. Bowman had sent a question to Mr. Goshea about CORI forms and that Mr. Goshea had recommended contacting Darryn at the state for additional guidance. Ms. Bowman stated that they are still slow at clearing them. There were also discussions about campgrounds, community gardens and reopening planning. As regards campgrounds, Ms. McCool stated that she understands they are only allowing them to open for people who are permanent residents during the season, noting that they have to be self-contained units. She also noted that each campground must apply to the state to determine if they can open under those circumstances. At this point, Ms. Florence expressed concern about motorsports parks that are operating after a cease and desist. Ms. Florence stated that she received some guidance on this issue which she would be happy to provide to other HCHC members if interested. Ms. Schaier asked if anyone knows if there is going to be a mass vaccination clinic

in our towns. Ms. Galloway believed that it will be similar to H1N1 depending on how much vaccine you get at one time. Ms. Messer stated that it may need to be given as an annual vaccine. Finally, Ms. Auer expressed concern about trying to access particular COVID-19 information on the mass.gov website. She noted that the way in which the information is imbedded on the website requires lengthy searches.

b) Discussion of “Challenges” Identified in Recent Survey – This item was not brought forward for discussion.

c) PHEP FY20 Workplan & Deliverables Update

Mr. Goshea reported that right now HCHC is in good shape with the FY 20 deliverables and he can follow up with everyone individually regarding their updated plans. He did not know how long the extension will be.

6. News and Updates

a) MRC & PVCOAD Updates

Mr. Goshea stated that he believes there hasn't been a PVCOAD meeting since February or March. He noted that there have been weekly MRC check-ins and so far things are going well, and he commented on the great work that the MRC is doing. Ms. Spencer added that they are trying to approve the influx of volunteers who are applying.

b) HMCC Update

Ms. Galloway stated that HMCC staff has been busy with PPE requests and she added that things are looking a little brighter for PPE than in March. Ms. Galloway reported that HMCC has been doing bi-weekly check-ins. She noted that the full Coalition training that was scheduled for April was postponed and may happen in the fall.

c) MCD Update

Ms. Galloway reported that the next meeting of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) will take place electronically on Monday, May 11th. Ms. Galloway stated that there are a lot of changes regarding licenses, noting that if anyone already has a license, it has been extended and for those who don't have a license, they are coming up with a way to move forward during the summer. She noted that PVMCD still plans to do tracking and testing. Ms. Galloway reported that there is a possible grant opportunity through MDAR and she will learn more about that at the next PVMCD meeting. As regards communities that are interested in joining the MCD, Ms. Petroksy noted that given the expected demands from COVID-19 and the EEE season, this could be a good time to make the case for the need for mosquito control.

d) Western MA Public Health Advisory Group (WAG)

Michael Nelson reported that the WAG has not been meeting for regular business but there have been weekly Monday morning meetings to check in and see how folks are doing and there is continued communication about COVID business. Mr. Nelson noted he is waiting for guidance from state colleagues as to how to proceed with wrapping up this current budget period and how to get ready for the next budget period which will begin July 1st.

e) LSAC Update

Mr. Nelson stated that there has been no LSAC business that he is aware of.

f) WRHSAC Updates

Ms. Galloway reported that the WRHSAC meetings have been continuing electronically. She noted that the projects are moving along and they are trying to provide some in-person trainings as online trainings. She also noted that there is likely to be extensions to many of the program periods. Ms. Galloway stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee is meeting fairly regularly. She pointed out that they are still planning to do the Chainsaw Skills training in person and they will need to work this out with the social distancing requirements.

g) MAVEN Report

Angela Kramer stated that it has been a challenge trying to get the patient's correct address when a patient is in a nursing home. HCHC members agreed that this is a problem. Ms. Hirschhorn suggested contacting the epidemiologist. Ms. Schaier also suggested contacting the Office of Integrated Surveillance & Informatics Services (ISIS). Ms. Kramer stated that the epidemiologist is usually busy but she agreed that ISIS is excellent and they respond quickly. Ms. Kramer stated that she has been receiving a lot of requests from people wanting to know who has tested positive for COVID-19 in their towns. Ms. Galloway stated that Ms. Kramer should not provide that information and the only people who have a right to the addresses are police chiefs and fire chiefs.

h) Upcoming Events, Trainings & Exercises

Ms. Hirschhorn stated that there is a meeting next week of the Certified Health Officers (CHO) Board. She stated that she will try to find out if there will be some kind of extension to get CEUs because many of the trainings have been cancelled. Ms. Hirschhorn will send out an email when she gets that information.

7. Other Business

Mr. Goshea remarked that HCHC members have done an incredible job and he thanked them for their hard work. Mr. Dennis reported that the City of Springfield just received a stimulus check and he pointed out that every HCHC community should be receiving this as well.

8. Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Galloway called for a motion to adjourn today's May 7, 2020 HCHC conference call meeting at 11:20 a.m. KATHLEEN AUER MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THIS MAY 7, 2020 HCHC MEETING; CHERYL MESSER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.